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**NEWS RELEASE**

# Judd Gregg

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **SENATORS GREGG AND SUNUNU ANNOUNCE FUNDING FOR OVERHAUL OF USS JACKSONVILLE AT SHIPYARD ON ITS WAY TO WHITE HOUSE**

*PNS also to benefit from share of \$28.9 million for Shipyard Apprentice Program funding nationwide*

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senators Judd Gregg (R-NH) and John Sununu (R-NH) today announced that the Fiscal Year 2004 Defense Appropriations Conference Report, which includes over \$202 million for the overhaul of the USS Jacksonville, SSN 699, at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, was approved by the full Senate earlier today. In addition to the overhaul, the measure includes \$28.9 million to be divided between the four U.S. Naval shipyards for the Naval Shipyard Apprentice Program. The FY04 Defense Conference Report now goes to the White House for the President's signature. Both Senators Gregg and Sununu attended a meeting earlier this month at the Shipyard with Rear Admiral William R. Klemm, Deputy Commander for Logistics, Maintenance and Industrial Operations Directorate, Naval Sea Systems Command, to discuss the Navy's long-term ship maintenance requirements and future of the Shipyard, including performance and management initiatives.

Senator Gregg, a member of the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, stated upon the bill's passage through the Senate in July, "During its twenty two years of service to the United States Navy, the USS Jacksonville has carried the men and women of our armed forces all over the world, including ports in Australia, Africa and Asia. The Navy will now call on the employees at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to perform upgrades and maintenance on the Jacksonville to return the submarine to service on schedule. Late last year, the USS Alexandria left the Shipyard following a stay of less than eleven months and at a record-low cost to the Navy, and in May, the USS Albuquerque returned to the seas, breaking records again. The men and women at the Shipyard continue to demonstrate their tremendous ability and I have every confidence they will once again prove their importance in the defense of our country.

"I am also pleased to see the Committee recognize the importance of the work being done by the Shipyard apprentice program, which I have always strongly supported. The funding will allow the Shipyard to induct a 2004 class of no fewer than 125 apprentices which means the future of Los Angeles-class submarines being overhauled in Portsmouth is in excellent hands."

Senator Sununu stated, "Through the repair and overhaul of Los Angeles Class nuclear submarines - the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's (PNSY) primary work - the United State's national security continues to be strengthened and maintained. Passage of this Department of Defense legislation allows the Yard to move forward with its critical support mission with scheduled work on the USS Jacksonville. Yard officials and employees can be assured that I will fight strongly for future resources so that the workload there remains steady. Additionally, approval of funding for the apprentice program underscores a commitment to a continuation of the Yard's skill and excellence."

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